female Python, in the Reptile-house in the Society's Gardens (*Python sebæ*), had on the previous day deposited a large number of eggs, and had commenced to sit upon them, guarding them with great care. A sketch by Mr. Wolf was exhibited, illustrative of the *Python* as she appeared in this position.

Dr. Cobbold exhibited a preparation of the remarkable pouched Peyerian gland from the intestine of the young Giraffe which had recently died in the Society's Gardens.

Mr. Alfred Newton exhibited a nest containing seventeen hatched-out eggs of *Ortyx virginianus*, which had been sent to him from New York by Mr. George N. Lawrence, C.M.Z.S., and read from a letter of that gentleman's the following extract:—

"Of course eggs of this species are abundant enough; but this is the only nest that ever came under my own observation. It was obtained in the garden of a place occupied by me during the summer, near the sea-shore at Rockaway, Long Island.

"The eggs, as you will notice, are chipped round at the largest diameter, with almost mathematical exactness, leaving a part of the shell adhering to one side. The fact of this being left to act as a hinge strikes me as peculiar, but it may not be unusual in birds of this family."

Mr. Newton stated that the very curious and regular mode in which the shells of these specimens had been almost entirely, yet not quite, severed was a circumstance he had never before observed in the eggs of any other species. In the European wild *Gallinæ*, especially in *Perdix cinerea*, the fracture of the shell, caused by the escape of the young birds, generally takes place nearer the middle of the axis major, and, so far as he knew, was always complete; that is, there was no "hinge" left joining the two parts. Indeed, in partridges' eggs which have been hatched out, the two portions of the shell were most frequently found lying the one encased in the other. He forbore offering any suggestions as to the manner in which the very curious appearance in the eggs exhibited had been produced, but considered it quite worthy the attention of naturalists.

The following papers were read:—

1. Descriptions of Three New Species of Shells belonging to the Family of Cyclades. By Temple Prime, of New York.

1. Batissa sphæricula, Prime.

Cyrena violacea, Lam., var. *Javanica*, Mousson, Moll. Java, 88, pl. 15. f. 1, 1849.

B. testa subrotunda, æquilaterali, depressiuscula, epidermide atro-virescente vestita, antice sulcis transversis remotis ornata, intus albo-violacea; latere antico dilatato, postico obtuso; lamina cardinali angusta; dentibus primariis inæqualibus, subcanali-

culatis; lateralibus elongatis, angustis, æqualibus; umbonibus inclinatis, erosis.

Long. $2\frac{2}{3}$, lat. $2\frac{1}{2}$, diam. $1\frac{1}{3}$ poll.

Hab. In flumine Palembang prope Pardana, in insula Java (*Coll. Prime*).

2. Batissa solidula, Prime.

B. testa ovato-orbiculari, æquilaterali, crassa, solida, latere antico dilatato, postico latiore, epidermide polita atro-fuscescente vel olivacea vestita; valvis intus albis, ad margines inferne posticeque violaceis; cardine incrassato; dentibus cardinalibus subæqualibus; lateralibus elongatis, angustis, serrulatis; umbonibus prominentibus, integris, antice inclinatis.

Long. $2\frac{1}{3}$, lat. $2\frac{1}{3}$, diam. $1\frac{1}{3}$ poll.

Hab. ——? (*Coll. Cuming et Prime*).

3. Pisidium novæ zelandiæ, Prime.

P. testa minuta, ovali, valde obliqua, tenui, fragili, postice subtruncata, umbonibus obtusiusculis, approximatis, epidermide corneo-flavescente vestita.

Long. $\frac{1}{5}$, lat. $\frac{1}{7}$, diam. $\frac{1}{10}$ poll.

Hab. In Nova Zelandia (*Coll. Cuming et Prime*).

2. Descriptions of Two New Species of Helicter (Achatinella, Swains.), from the Sandwich Islands, with a History of the Genus. By W. Harper Pease.

We venture to add two species to the above genus, and to adopt the generic name given to this group by Férussac, as having priority over that of *Achatinella* of Swainson. The history of the genus will, we think, justify us in so doing. Not having met with any account of it in a connected form, we offer the following to be filled out hereafter by those abroad who have within their reach materials we cannot command in this corner of the world.

It is not probable that any specimens of this genus were collected by Capt. Cook, or those attached to the expedition under his command, as they anchored on their first visit at the most leeward island of the group, Kauai, and, on their return from the north-west coast of America, at the most windward, Hawaii, having but little or no communication with the intermediate islands. With the exception of one species, rarely met with on the mountains in the interior of Hawaii, none but small ground species inhabit either of the above islands, the true *Helicteres* being confined to the central islands of the group.

The earliest notice we find of any species of this genus is in the narrative of the first commercial expedition that visited the islands after their discovery by Capt. Cook. It consisted of two vessels, the one under command of Capt. Portlock, the other under Capt. Dixon: